

FFCI Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, July 23, 2022
Zoom Online Meeting 9:30 to 11

Present: Alta and Jerry Byg (Co-Treasurers), Sedahlia Crase (President), Dennis Dake (Newsletter), Margaret Epplin (Secretary)

1. **Call to order:** President Crase called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Epplin **made a motion** to approve the Agenda, A Byg **seconded. Motion carried.**

3. **Approval of minutes** of May 21, 2022, Board meeting: Crase noted that the new Regional Representative is Robert Mitchell, not Scott Oliver as reported at the May meeting. For clarity, Crase requested that the May minutes be changed to reflect the name of the correct Regional Representative.

Epplin **made a motion** to approve the amended minutes, A Byg **seconded. Motion carried.**

4. **Reports:** Rather than recitation of reports, this is a time to ask questions, comment, discuss.

a. **Treasurer** (Bygs, Co-Treasurers)

There have been no transactions in the Journey account since May 19, 2022. Journey Account checkbook balance is \$250. The May 19, 2022, General account checkbook balance was \$5,363.75. Since then, one dues payment of \$40 from Marcia Thompson was received and deposited. With this transaction the General checking account balance is \$5,403.75. As of July 22, 2022, 45 membership dues have been received.

b. **Membership:** Co-Treasurers Bygs have received dues from 45 members. Epplin sent a list of FFCI 2022 members to the entire membership and has received no corrections to the list.

c. **Communication**

i. **Historian:** Crase will take the historical materials to Diane Oppedal who has agreed to sort through the materials according to the guidelines established at the May 2022 FFCI Board meeting.

ii. **Information Technology** (website): Epplin reported that approved minutes and recent newsletters are all on the FFCI website.

iii. **Newsletter:** Both the June and July FFCI scheduled activities (see details in Activities 4 d below) were cancelled due to last minute emergencies causing the newsletter to be delayed. Dake will write a July/August newsletter and encourages any members to send him articles and pictures by the last week of each month. An article on the Urbatsches who recently re-joined FFCI was recommended and either Dake or Crase will call.

iv. **Publicity:** Crase encouraged all members and the Board to take photos at every event and send the pictures to Dake. A Byg said *The Sun* is no longer being printed. All submissions must be sent to *The Tribune* and there might be a cost. With print possibilities diminishing, the Board talked about ways FFCI might send out information. Email is currently used. Some Board members noted that Facebook is no longer being used as much.

d. **Activities:** Six small groups volunteered to do the activities, with assistance from past co-chairs Corry Bertelsen and Charene Starcevic. Activities have been well attended and well received by the entire membership. The June 21 Senior Olympics to be held at Marcia Thompson's home was rescheduled for September due to a death in Thompson's family. Epplin will follow up with Thompson. The July boat ride on the Empress was cancelled due to the boat's air conditioning system malfunctioning.

The Board is hosting the August event. On August 18 from 2 to 4 at the Ames Public Library, the Bygs will give a PowerPoint presentation on the 2019 FFCI trip to Kiev, Ukraine and Tbilisi, Georgia. All members and anyone interested in hearing and seeing the sights of Ukraine before the war are encouraged to

attend. Members are asked to bring a snack to share. The Board will provide tea and lemonade. Please plan to attend and enjoy a great presentation, snacks, and socialization!

A Byg will double check on using the AV equipment at the Library.

e. **Nominations** (see New Business)

f. **Information via Regional Representative:** As noted when the May minutes were approved in #3 above, Robert Mitchell of the Milwaukee Club is the Regional Representative, not Scott Oliver of the N.I.L Club.

Dake requested a list of regional contacts to send the FFCI newsletter. Crase will call Mitchell for a new list of regional reps and will send to Dake.

5. Old Business

a. **2022 Journeys (in- and outbound):** Crase reported that FFCI did not request a 2022 journey but had a second chance to do so early in June. FFCI agreed to serve as co-hosts for ambassadors from the Tuxtla/Gutiérrez Club in southeast Mexico, a last minute request for a home stay from that club. FFCI members were willing to pull out the stops and take 8 of the 16 people, with FFGDM taking the other 8. Crase found homes with appropriate beds for the eight people, and Lynn Avant volunteered to pull out the ready-to-go plans for the Brandon, Canada group which had been put on hold when Covid began in 2020. However, after over two weeks of not being able to get any messages from the Tuxtla/Gutiérrez Club's president, even with Spanish translations, FFCI and FFGDM discussed if this inbound journey were going to happen. Des Moines Club members were adamant that they didn't have enough time to plan. Crase reported "In my own 'we can do this' way, I felt we FFCI could, but agreed that it would be tight and FFCI could not host alone, so FFCI and FFGDM decided each would send a letter to the Tuxtla/Gutiérrez Club informing them that the Central Iowa clubs could not host their club." Crase shared the letters with the Board.

b. **Member sign-in to new FFI portal:** Crase reported that turnout continues to be very low

6. New business

a. **Audit Committee:** Crase will appoint the Audit Committee and is open to suggestions from the Board.

b. **Nomination Committee** for 2023 officers: Crase will appoint three people and is open to suggestions from the Board.

c. **Report on 2023 journey requests:** FFCI has been assigned a domestic outbound in 2023 to Montana, and Crase will follow up with Alison at FFI to see if she has a contact in MT. Crase has received no further journey information from FFI. Mitchell, Regional Representative, thinks that the FFI head office is months behind. Crase also suggested a domestic outbound trip to Huntsville AL where she has a contact.

d. **Future plans: thoughts, possibilities** The FFCI Board continues to brainstorm ways FFCI can show presence in the community, and Crase compiled the following list: volunteer; purchase setup at Farmer's Market in late spring, summer; assist at Thursday evening events at Bandshell Park; have an FFCI team at the Ames spring cleanup event; serve meals downtown for a week; write a letter from the Board to relate FF to world issues and discuss goals of FFI and then FFCI.

e. **Any future brain-storming events?** The Board held a brainstorming event earlier in the spring and does not have another one planned.

7. **Adjournment:** The next Board meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Saturday, September 10, via Zoom. Epplin will contact the Board members to find a date the last week in September since Board members have conflicts until then.

A Byg **moved to adjourn**, Epplin **seconded**. **Motion carried.**

Board meetings remaining in 2022: September (date TBD) and November 12. The FFCI Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 8. Hopefully FFCI will hold its annual Holiday Party.